

The Architects Office

Wehner, Nowysz, Pottschiull and Pfiffner
901 day building, Iowa city, Iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- 4-W1012 MAP # 2

HIST. DIST. _____

NAME Saengerfest Halle H C

ADDRESS 1012 West ^{4th} Fourth Street

LEGAL DES. (See Continuation Sheet)

SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM ⁴ 15 710,112,604,519,914,800 ACRES -1 ZONE M-1
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Quint Cities Coliseum Corporation
1012 W. 4th St., Davenport, IA 52802

TITLE H. _____
(IF DIFF) _____



SITE SHEET

MAP

DESCRIPTION

Rectangular performance hall with shallow barrel roof, end-gable

FORM orientation CONST. DATE c. 1898

MATERIALS Brick ARCH STYLE _____

FENESTRATION Rectangular

DIST. FEATURES 2-story corner pavilions, side walls have brick pilasters

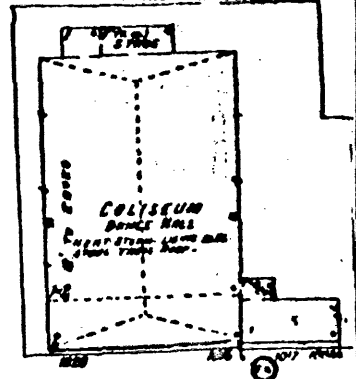
ALTERATIONS Front reworked to remove round-arched windows & entrance - False broken pediments installed over windows, roofs removed from corner pavilions

SITE & RELATED STR. _____

STATEMENT

The original function of the Saengerfest Halle was to provide a large public assembly area for the performing and viewing of musical events (see "Description," reverse side). The exterior modifications of the corner pavilions and window openings have not diminished its original scale or utilitarian stature.

Clausen & Burrows, Architects
Oelrich & Company, Builders



ARCHITECTURE

SOURCES

SIGNIFICANCE

This building was the site for a major German-American cultural event, the Saengerfest of 1895. This building was constructed specifically for this event and is the chief surviving structure associated with German culture in the city.

HISTORY

DESCRIPTION

The Northwestern Saengerbund, a German musical organization in the upper midwest dedicated to keeping the German musical tradition alive, met in Davenport for a three day festival. July 28-30, 1898. The event was known as the "Davenport Saengerfest." Adolph Weis, the secretary of the Saengerbund, was instrumental in organizing and bringing it to Davenport. Singers for the regional fest came from Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri and Iowa. Iowa communities included Dubuque, Burlington, Elkader, Muscatine, Manning, Ottumwa and Davenport with 137 singers. A total of 1,467 singers participated. So important was the Saengerfest to German-Americans that local telegraph companies hired on extra German speaking telegraph operators to handle the extra business generated by German language newspaper reporters. Davenport's German singing tradition had begun shortly after German (See continuation sheet)

SOURCES

Davenport Illustrated. Saengerfest Souvenir, Davenport, Iowa, 1898.
 Richter, August, "A True History of Scott County, Iowa," Davenport Democrat, October 31, 1920.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: Martha Bowers | HISTORIAN: MARLYS SVENDSEN - ROESLER | SURVEY COMP 1981

EVALUATION

ARCHITECTURAL

- I. ARCH. EVALUATION Fair
- II. ENVIR. STATURE Incident
- III. INT. OF CONTEXT Fair
- IV. INT. OF FABRIC Fair

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT. STATE LOCAL N. ELIG.

HISTORICAL

I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- A. PRIMARY settlement/music
- B. SECONDARY German community

II. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT. STATE LOCAL

III. N.R.H.P.

- ELIGIBLE NOT ELIGIBLE

HISTORIC DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION

- A. B. C.

FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY

1. DATE RECEIVED _____

2. DATE OF STAFF EVALUATION _____

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | A. ARCHITECTURAL | B. HISTORICAL |
| ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NOT ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. N.R.H.P. ACTION

- A. STATE REVIEW COMM. APP. DISAPP. TABLED DATE _____
- B. FEDERAL REVIEW APP. DISAPP. TABLED DATE _____

4. D.H.P. SOURCES

- COUNTY RESOURCES
- W'SHIELD SURVEY
- N.R.H.P.
- GRANT _____
- DET. OF ELIGIBILITY
- R. & C. _____
- DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY
- _____
- _____

5. SUBJECT TRACES

6. PHOTO

1657-86
 S&W elev.

The Architects Office

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DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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* 82-10-4-W1012

CONTINUATION

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Part of lots 2, 3, & 4, G.C.R. Mitchell's Addition; beginning at the S.W. cor. lot 2, G.C.R. Mitchell's Addition; thence North 167.75 feet, more or less; thence East 80 feet; thence North 20 feet; thence East 120 feet; thence South 58 feet; thence East 501 feet; thence South 112 feet; thence West 250.1 feet to point of beginning.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

immigrants began arriving. The "Liedertafel" organized in 1848 and the "Davenport Maennerchor" formed in 1851. Another group, the "Gruetti Verin" organized later in the 1850's. In 1858 Davenport was selected as the site for the Saengerfest of the Northwestern Saengerbund. The Saengerbund was begun just three years earlier by German settlers. Other 19th century German singing groups included the Germania Saengerchor, Gesang Verein Teutonia, Northwest Davenport Liedertofel, Eintracht Glee Club, Harmonia Damen Choir, Claus Groth Singing Society, Turner Singing Section, Thalia Verein, Vorwaertz Singing Society and Harugaria Maennerchor. The Saengerfest of 1898, a much larger event, signaled Davenport's continued and even stronger role as a German cultural center.